

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 05513 101514Z
ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-05 SOE-02 DODE-00
DOE-15 SS-15 SP-02 CEQ-01 PM-05 /114 W
-----070575 102315Z /21

R 101028Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 793
INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 5513

FOR NEA-SAUNDERS AND LANDE, T-NYE, OES-NOSENZO, NSC-THORNTON

FROM GOHEEN AND DUBS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MNUC,ENGR, IN,US
SUBJECT: TARAPUR

1. DURING DINNER CONVERSATION WITH FORMER INDIAN AMBASSADOR KEWAL SINGH ON APRIL 10, ISSUE OF CONTINUED SUPPLY OF ENRICHED URANIUM TO TARAPUR INEVITABLY AROSE. SINCE THIS PROBLEM IS LIKELY TO BECOMER MORE ACUTE IN MOTHS AHEAD, SINGH WONDERED WHETHER USG COULD NOT COME UP WITH SOME OFFER TO ASSIST INDIA IN FILLING POWER GAP WHICH WOULD ENSUE IF OUTPUT FROM TARAPUR REACTORS HAD TO BE CUT BACK BECAUSE OF CONTINUED DELAY OR EVEN TERMINATION OF ENRICHED URANIUM SHIPMENTS. SUCH A GESTURE, HE ARGUED, WOULD DEMONSTRATE THAT WHILE THERE MAY BE HONEST DIFFERENCES OF OPINION THAT HOPEFULLY CAN BE WORKED OUT OVER PERIOD OF TIME, US DID NOT WISH TO BE PUNATIVE IN A WAY WHICH WOULD SERIOUSLY AFFECT LOCAL ECONOMIES IN GUJARAT AND MAHARASHTRA. SUCH A GESTURE, SINGH NOTED, WOULD NOT FULLY OVERCOME ALLEGATIONS THAT THE US WAS RENEGING ON AN INTERNATIONAL CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATION OR THAT THE US WAS ATTEMPTING TO INHIBIT
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INDIA'S NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENT FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES. BUT CERTAINLY DESAI AND MANY OTHERS WOULD APPRECIATE THE INTENT AND GOODWILL BEHING SUCH A GESTURE.

2.I HOPE THAT THE DEPARTMENT WILL FIND SINGH'S IDEA WORTH EXPLORING. A STOP-GAP MEASURE WOULD GIVE INDIA TIME TO WORK OUT A LONGER-TERM SOLUTION TO THE ENERGY-SUPPLY

PROBLEM IN THE BOMBAY AREA, INCLUDING THE SEARCH FOR A
POSSIBLE ALTERNATE SUPPLY OF ENRICHED URANIUM FOR THE
TARAPUR REAVHBYTS. MOREOVER, IT WOULD HELP TO PROTECT
THEHACXOD RELATIONSHIP AGAINST THE TRAUMA OF A POSSIBLE
TARAPUR CUTOFF. INDO-US RELATIONS ARE LIKELY TO NEED
SOME IMAGINATIVE GESTURES IN THE MONTHS AHEAD.
GOHEEN

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Message Attributes

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